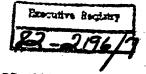


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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301



, 2 APR 1982

DDI- 779482

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Soviet gas pipeline construction (U)

- (U) This is in reply to your 29 January 1982 Memorandum concerning Soviet gas pipeline construction. The Defense Intelligence Agency agrees in substance with the Central Intelligence Agency draft assessment, but has some reservations, especially with paragraphs 4 and 5 of the assessment. These reservations are based on the following assessments that DIA has made on the status of Soviet gas pipeline construction.
- (S) The USSR is planning to construct six pipelines during the Eleventh Five-Year Plan (1981-86); of these, two are nearing completion and a third is probably already under construction. Since two of the lines are already basically completed and a third has been started, the turbine requirements are not considered as great as suggested in paragraph 4. In addition, the Soviet's outstanding pipelaying capability is demonstrated by the fact that the two lines that are already basically completed were begun only The two completed lines are large-diameter pipe, two years ago. and are each 3,000 to 3,400 kilometers in length. One of the two lines is scheduled to be extended into Eastern Europe this year. Furthermore, this line could readily be extended to Western Europe and, in effect, be considered the "Yamburg line." It should also be noted that the USSR plans to construct all but one of the six pipelines using, for the most part, their own equipment. Accordingly, the Defense Intelligence Agency estimates that a complete Western embargo would, at most, delay completion of one or two of the six pipelines planned for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan but not necessarily the "Yamburg line."
- b. (S) The Defense Intelligence Agency is presently examining the existing gas lines and compressor stations out of West Siberia to Chelyabinsk, and this research confirms that a large number of small compressor units is being used, although there is also a number of stations with units over 15 megawatts. Out of the 58 compressor stations in the two pipeline corridors, 48 have Soviet equipment; seven contain Coberrow (Cooper Rolls-Royce units) and three have not been identified. The Coberrow-units are of 12 megawatts and represent 12 percent of the total capacity. The Soviet

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equipment consists of 345 turbine units with 225 under 10 megawatts in size. The Soviets are capable of constructing 6, 11, 15, and 22 megawatt units. Reportedly a 25 megawatt unit has been tested and serial production was to have begun in 1981. This data should be considered with reference to a reevaluation of paragraph 5.

c. (S) The Defense Intelligence Agency concurs with the Central Intelligence Agency statements on aircraft engine production and availability. It is agreed, however, that there is considerable uncertainty as to production levels and plant capacities for aircraft engines, and almost no hard information is available concerning these aspects of the industrial turbine industry, especially over the next few years. Acknowledging these limitations, it is considered that the Soviets could, if necessary, increase the output of large aircraft engines over the next few years.

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